

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A multicast communication method of allowing a communication control apparatus for performing communication in accordance with an Internet protocol version 4 (IPv4) to communicate with a communication control apparatus for performing communication in accordance with an Internet protocol version 6 (IPv6), comprising the steps of:

when an IPv4 multicast packet is inputted, discriminating that said packet is a data packet on the basis of its IPv4 header;

when it is determined that said packet is the data packet, converting the IPv4 header of the IPv4 multicast packet into an IPv6 header and generating an IPv6 multicast packet;

outputting the generated IPv6 multicast packet to an IPv6 network;

when an IPv4-compatible multicast control packet (IGMP packet) is inputted, discriminating that said packet is an IGMP packet of a request for multicast group subscription on the basis of an IGMP header;

when it is determined that the packet is the IGMP packet of the request for multicast group subscription, translating

the IGMP packet and generating an IPv6-compatible multicast control packet (MLD packet);

registering correspondence information between an IPv4 multicast address and an IPv6 multicast address; and

outputting the MLD packet to the IPv6 network.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of translating an MLD packet which is outputted from another communication control apparatus including an IPv6 multicast router into the IGMP packet.

4-6. (Canceled).